

## ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY.

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No. 15.

SIR J. F. W. HERSCHEL, Bart. President, in the Chair.

Arthur Scratchley, Esq., B.A., Fellow of Queen's College, Cambridge, No. 3 Parliament Street, was balloted for and duly elected a Fellow of the Society.

## NEW COMET.

## Extract of a Letter from Professor Colla to Mr. Hind.

"On the 7th of this month, at nine in the evening, I discovered a very faint telescopic comet in *Leo Minor*, between two stars of Harding's *Celestial Atlas*, marked 21 and 30, in about  $151^{\circ}$  Right Ascension and  $36^{\circ}\frac{1}{2}$  North Declination.

"This comet presents the appearance of a small nebulosity, almost circular, and without tail, but with some indication of a bright point visible at intervals in the central part of the nebulosity.

"The motion in R. A. is very slow (it appeared to me to be retrograde), and that in declination is increasing.

"On the evening of the 8th, and again last night, I saw the comet, which appeared to me a little brighter: it continues its course towards the North."

Mr. Littrow, of the Vienna Observatory, saw the comet on May 15, at 11 P.M. Approximate place,

R.A.  $10^{\text{h}} 2^{\text{m}} 36^{\text{s}}$ . Dec.  $+38^{\circ} 38'$ .

Mr. Rümker, of Hamburg, has made the following observations:—

	Hamb. M.T.	R.A.	Dec.
	h m s		
May 18	11 4 47	$150^{\circ} 31' 0''$	$+39^{\circ} 20' 47''$ (good)
19	11 6 44	$150^{\circ} 29' 27''$	$+39^{\circ} 35' 32''$ (uncertain)

From the above position for May 18, an observation by Mr. Dawes on May 21, and one at Regent's Park on the 25th, Mr. Hind has deduced the following rough elements:—

*Mr. Hind should have sent his own elements*

Perihelion Passage, 1847, July 22<sup>261</sup>, G.M.T.

Longitude of Perihelion ... 116° 27'

Ascending Node ..... 171° 25'

Inclination ..... 84° 45'

Log. least distance ..... 0.29825. Motion retrograde.

*Extract of a Letter from Professor Schumacher.\**

"I have received to-day a very interesting letter from M. Le Verrier. The star observed by Lalande on May 10, 1795, is undoubtedly the planet (*Neptune*). On consulting the original MSS. it appears that he observed the planet on May 10, and also on May 8; but in printing the *Histoire Céleste*, these two observations, supposed to be of the same fixed star, were found discordant. Hence the observation of May 8 was not printed at all, and to that of May 10 were affixed the two points, signifying doubt, which are not in the MSS. The MSS. observations stand thus:" †—

	May 8	7.8	Middle Wire.	Third Wire.	Zenith Distance.
			h m s	h m s	° ' "
		Planet	14 11 24	.....	59 54 40
	10	Planet	11 36.5	.....	60 8 17
		7.8	11 23.5	.....	60 7 19
			.....	14 11 50.5	59 54 40

*Observations of Neptune since its Reappearance.*

CAMBRIDGE. Northumberland Equatoreal. (Prof. Challis.)

	1847. May 6	Greenwich M. T.	Right Ascension.	N.P.D.
			h m s	h m s
		15 13 49	22 9 53.4°	101° 55' 53.1"
		15 24 11	22 10 9.0°	101 54 38.0°

"Neptune was compared with a star in Bessel's Zones, 127, 129, R.A. = 22<sup>h</sup> 15<sup>m</sup> 11<sup>s</sup>, and Bessel's place was employed. On May 6th, the observation was difficult from twilight and unfavourable atmosphere."

*Extract of a Letter from Mr. Adams, with new Elements of NEPTUNE.*

"The following elements of *Neptune* have been obtained by taking into account Professor Challis's Observations made since the reappearance. \* \* \* The elements are now sufficiently correct to enable me to approximate to the perturbations of *Neptune* by the action of *Uranus*, in order to compare more accurately the

\* Professor Schumacher is recovering satisfactorily from his long and serious illness.

† The mean places of the star for 1800, by Schumacher's Tables, are

R.A. 14 12 0.83	N.P.D. 101° 8' 19.4"
11 59.81	8 17.8

There is probably an error of 1° in one of the observed R. Ascensions.